

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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LABOR:GHOLMES (PHONE)

EUR/RPE:ECASEY

S/IL:DGOOD

AGRIC:DHUME (SUBS)

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P R 051552Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EAGR, NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS SUPPORT CALIFORNIA

COPENHAGEN FOR LABOR ATTACHE

1. BOYCOTT APPEAL BY PARLIAMENTARIANS CONTAINS MIS-
STATEMENTS OF FACT, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING APPLICATION OF
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PESTICIDES CONTROLS TO CALIFORNIA GROWERS. PESTICIDES ARE

CONTROLLED BY US AND CALIFORNIA STATE REGULATIONS, AND, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NOT AFFECTED BY PROVISIONS OF UFW LABOR CONTRACTS. ALARM RAISED IN BOYCOTT APPEAL CONCERNING PESTICIDES MISLEADING. OPEN LETTER SOMEWHAT INCONSISTENTLY SUGGESTS BOYCOTT COULD PROTECT NORWEGIAN CONSUMERS FROM ILL EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES WHILE AT THE SAME TIME STATING THAT THESE VERY PESTICIDES ALREADY PROHIBITED BY NORWEGIAN LAW.

2. NORWEGIANS WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS OBSERVING BOYCOTT IN VIEW OF FACT THAT GRAPE AND LETTUCE GROWERS SELL TO SHIPPERS WHO CONSOLIDATE SHIPMENTS FOR MOVEMENT OVERSEAS. MOST SHIPMENTS FROM CALIFORNIA WOULD CONTAIN A MIX OF

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UFW-HARVESTED AND TEAMSTER-HARVESTED PRODUCE. ATTEMPTED BOYCOTT AS SUGGESTED IN PARLIAMENTARIANS' APPEAL WOULD PROBABLY PENALIZE UFW GRAPES AND LETTUCE AS MUCH AS NON-UFW PRODUCT.

3. US BOYCOTT HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY AFL-CIO IN EFFORT TO HELP UFW ORGANIZING EFFORTS UNDER CALIFORNIA'S NEW AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS LAW. ELECTIONS UNDER NEW LAW ARE NEARLY COMPLETED AND LATEST UNOFFICIAL COUNT SHOWS UFW WINNING 136 ELECTIONS, TEAMSTERS 90, AND 11 UNITS VOTING FOR NO UNION. THE RESULTS IN 9 OF ELECTIONS ARE BEING CONTESTED. ISSUE OF UNION REPRESENTATION SEEMS TO

BE SETTLED FOR MOMENT AND US BOYCOTT HAS LOST ITS MAIN PURPOSE AND MOST OF ITS STEAM.

4. BOYCOTT APPEAL BY PARLIAMENTARIANS IS ESSENTIALLY NON-OFFICIAL ACT, BUT EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DRAW ON ABOVE IN HANDLING QUERRIES ABOUT BOYCOTT AND, IN MANNER EMBASSY DEEMS APPROPRIATE, TO CORRECT MISINFORMATION CONTAINED IN PARLIAMENTARIANS' STATEMENT.
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